

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 106247
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SNM-02 L-03
H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DHA-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00
/045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B :LBLEVINE :MG
APPROVED BY ARA/AND: MRBARNEBEY
ARA/PPC:GBROWN

-----110255Z 129407 /66
O 110144Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NIACT IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 106247

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, BL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED FOR NOON PRESS
BRIEFING MAY 11(IF ASKED).

Q. THE PARENTS OF US CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN BOLIVIA ON
DRUG CHARGES HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY IN THE
RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING IN WHICH THEY MADE SEVERAL CHARGES
ABOUT THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS HANDLING THEIR
CHILDREN'S WELFARE. THEY CHARGED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS
NOT BEEN DOING ALL IT COULD TO SEE THAT THE PRISONERS
RECEIVE SPEEDY JUSTICE AND THEY CALL FOR, AMONG OTHER
ACTIONS, THE RECALL OF OUR AMBASSADOR TO BOLIVIA.

A. FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO STATE
THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FULL AND COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 106247

THE WAY AMBASSADOR STEDMAN HAS HANDLED THE PRISONERS ISSUE.
THE PROBLEM OF THE PRISONERS IS VERY COMPLICATED. WITHOUT
GOING INTO ALL OF THE DETAILS LET ME SAY THAT THERE ARE
NOW 35 AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN BOLIVIA ON NARCOTICS
CHARGES. THEIR TRIALS ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES. OF THOSE
IMPRISONED 5 WERE ARRESTED IN 1974; 11 IN 1975; 14 IN 1976;

AND 5 IN 1977. THE BOLIVIAN JUDICIARY IS OVERLOADED WITH NARCOTICS CASES AND UNDERSTAFFED. AS A RESULT, IT IS SLOW IN MOVING THE CASES THROUGH THE TRIAL PROCESS AND SENTENCING THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL ACTS. BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND OUR EMBASSY IN LA PAZ RAISE THE ISSUE FREQUENTLY WITH THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES. OUR AMBASSADOR HAS PERSONALLY BROUGHT IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT. THE PRISONER ISSUE HAS BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA AND WE ARE WORKING ACTIVELY TO RESOLVE IT.

Q. WHY HAVE THE PRISONERS SPENT SO LONG AWAITING SENTENCING? CAN'T THE EMBASSY PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT?

A. THE BOLIVIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM, IN ADDITION TO BEING OVERLOADED, IS ALSO INDEPENDENT. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT ORDER THE JUDICIARY TO TAKE SPECIFIC ACTIONS ON SELECTED CASES. THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY HIRED ADDITIONAL JUDGES AND RENTED ADDITIONAL COURTROOMS TO HANDLE SUCH CASES. FOUR PRISONERS WERE SENTENCED WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS AND WE EXPECT ANOTHER HALF DOZEN OR SO TO BE SENTENCED SHORTLY.

Q. THE PARENTS HAVE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NOT FULFILLED ITS ROLE IN SEEING THAT THE PRISONERS ARE PROPERLY TREATED BY THE PRISON AUTHORITIES--THAT THEY RECEIVE ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 106247

A. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF EMBASSY PETITIONS, THE PRISONERS NOW RECEIVE IMPROVED ATTENTION TO THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS. FOR EXAMPLE, JUDICIAL PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE PRISON FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE IS NOW LESS RESTRICTIVE AND MORE FREQUENTLY GRANTED. THIS IS A MATTER CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED BY THE EMBASSY AND ANY UNJUSTIFIED DENIAL IS IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT A PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY LIKE THE ONE WITH MEXICO?

A. WE HAVE THIS POSSIBILITY UNDER STUDY. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE MEXICAN AND CANADIAN AGREEMENTS WILL LARGELY DETERMINE FUTURE ACTION ON ADDITIONAL PRISONER EXCHANGE INITIATIVES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 106247
ORIGIN ARA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: ARA/AND/B-MS. HENDERSON; LEE

APPROVED BY: ARA/AND-MR. LEVINE

-----111911Z 023656 /43

O 111233Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 106247

FOR AMBASSADOR TODMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 106247 ACTION LAPAZ MAY 11.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 106247

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC, BL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED FOR NOON PRESS

BRIEFING MAY 11 (IF ASKED).

Q. THE PARENTS OF US CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN BOLIVIA ON
DRUG CHARGES HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY IN THE
RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING IN WHICH THEY MADE SEVERAL CHARGES
ABOUT THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS HANDLING THEIR
CHILDREN'S WELFARE. THEY CHARGED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS
NOT BEEN DOING ALL IT COULD TO SEE THAT THE PRISONERS
RECEIVE SPEEDY JUSTICE AND THEY CALL FOR AMONG OTHER
ACTIONS, THE RECALL OF OUR AMBASSADOR TO BOLIVIA.

A. FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 106247

HAS FULL AND COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE WAY
AMBASSADOR STEDMAN HAS HANDLED THE PRISONERS ISSUE.

THE PROBLEM OF THE PRISONERS IS VERY COMPLICATED. WITHOUT GOING INTO ALL OF THE DETAILS LET ME SAY THAT THERE ARE NOW 35 AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN BOLIVIA ON NARCOTICS CHARGES. THEIR TRIALS ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES. OF THOSE IMPRISONED 5 WERE ARRESTED IN 1974; 11 IN 1975; 14 IN 1976; AND 5 IN 1977. THE BOLIVIAN JUDICIARY IS OVERLOADED WITH NARCOTICS CASES AND UNDERSTAFFED. AS A RESULT, IT IS SLOW IN MOVING THE CASES THROUGH THE TRIAL PROCESS AND SENTENCING THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL ACTS. BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND OUR EMBASSY IN LA PAZ RAISE THE ISSUE FREQUENTLY WITH THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES. OUR AMBASSADOR HAS PERSONALLY BROUGHT IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT. THE PRISONER ISSUE HAS BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA AND WE ARE WORKING ACTIVELY TO RESOLVE IT.

Q. WHY HAVE THE PRISONERS SPENT SO LONG AWAITING SENTENCING? CAN'T THE EMBASSY PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT?

A. THE BOLIVIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM, IN ADDITION TO BEING OVERLOADED, IS ALSO INDEPENDENT. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT ORDER THE JUDICIARY TO TAKE SPECIFIC ACTIONS ON SELECTED CASES. THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY HIRED ADDITIONAL JUDGES AND RENTED ADDITIONAL COURTROOMS TO HANDLE SUCH CASES. FOUR PRISONERS WERE SENTENCED WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS AND WE EXPECT ANOTHER HALF DOZEN OR SO TO BE SENTENCED SHORTLY.

Q. THE PARENTS HAVE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NOT FULFILLED ITS ROLE IN SEEING THAT THE PRISONERS ARE PROPERLY TREATED BY THE PRISON AUTHORITIES--THAT THEY RECEIVE ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 106247

A. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF EMBASSY PETITIONS, THE PRISONERS NOW RECEIVE IMPROVED ATTENTION TO THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS. FOR EXAMPLE, JUDICIAL PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE PRISON FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE IS NOW LESS RESTRICTIVE AND MORE FREQUENTLY GRANTED. THIS IS A MATTER CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED BY THE EMBASSY AND ANY UNJUSTIFIED DENIAL IS IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT A PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY LIKE THE ONE WITH MEXICO?

A. WE HAVE THIS POSSIBILITY UNDER STUDY. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE MEXICAN AND CANADIAN AGREEMENTS WILL LARGELY DETERMINE FUTURE ACTION ON ADDITIONAL PRISONER

EXCHANGE INITIATIVES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. CHRISTOPHER.

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PENAL SYSTEM, BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE106247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LBLEVINE :MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770165-0108
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770570/aaaachwi.tel
Line Count: 227
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4acba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2566787
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING MAY 11(IF ASKED).
TAGS: CASC, SOPN, PORS, BL, US
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4acba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009